

homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 99, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

(e) APPLICATION OF LIFETIME AGGREGATE LIMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the provisions of section 2711 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 1001) that relate to lifetime limits shall apply to grandfathered health plans (including group health plans and individual health insurance coverage), except as provided for in paragraph (2).

(2) PHASE-OUT.—A grandfathered health plan—

(A) may not apply a lifetime limit that is less than \$5,000,000 during the first two plan years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) may not apply a lifetime limit that is less than \$10,000,000 during the third and fourth plan years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) shall not apply any lifetime limit for plans years beginning on or after January 1, 2014.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lia Lopez, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of consideration of H.R. 3590.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3590

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote order with respect to the Lautenberg and Dorgan amendments to H.R. 3590 be reversed to Dorgan and then Lautenberg.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 224, S. 1755.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1755) to direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on emergency communications.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1755) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1755

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Nearly 700,000 amateurs radio operators in the United States are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service.

(2) Amateur Radio Service operators provide, on a volunteer basis, a valuable public sector service to their communities, their States, and to the Nation, especially in the area of national and international disaster communications.

(3) Emergency and disaster relief communications services by volunteer Amateur Radio Service operators have consistently and reliably been provided before, during, and after floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires, earthquakes, blizzards, train accidents, chemical spills and other disasters. These communications services include services in connection with significant examples, such as—

(A) hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Hugo, and Andrew;

(B) the relief effort at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon following the 2001 terrorist attacks; and

(C) the Oklahoma City bombing in April 1995.

(4) Amateur Radio Service has formal agreements for the provision of volunteer emergency communications activities with the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, the National Communications System, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, as well as with disaster relief agencies, including the American National Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

(5) Section 1 of the joint resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to recognize the achievements of radio amateurs, and to establish support for such amateurs as national policy”, approved October 22, 1994 (Public Law 103-408), included a finding that stated: “Reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective operation of amateur radio from residences, private vehicles and public areas, and the regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur radio operations as a public benefit.”.

(6) Section 1805(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 757(c)) directs the Regional Emergency Communications Coordinating Working Group of the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate their activities with ham and amateur radio operators among the 11 other emergency organizations such as ambulance services, law enforcement, and others.

(7) Amateur Radio Service, at no cost to taxpayers, provides a fertile ground for technical self-training in modern telecommunications, electronic technology, and emergency communications techniques and protocols.

(8) There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given—

(A) support at all levels of government; and

(B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations.

SEC. 3. STUDY OF ENHANCED USES OF AMATEUR RADIO IN EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RELIEF COMMUNICATIONS AND FOR RELIEF OF RESTRICTIONS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief; and

(2) submit a report on the findings of the Secretary to Congress.

(b) SCOPE OF THE STUDY.—The study required by this section shall—

(1) include a review of the importance of amateur radio emergency communications in furtherance of homeland security missions relating to disasters, severe weather, and other threats to lives and property in the United States, as well as recommendations for—

(A) enhancements in the voluntary deployment of amateur radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and

(B) improved integration of amateur radio operators in planning and furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives; and

(2)(A) identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and

(B) make recommendations regarding such impediments for consideration by other Federal departments, agencies, and Congress.

(c) USE OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION.—In conducting the study required by this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including the amateur radio, emergency response, and disaster communications communities.

CONVENING OF 2ND SESSION OF 111TH CONGRESS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 62, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 62) appointing the day for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res 62) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

H.J. RES. 62

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second regular session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress shall begin at noon on Tuesday, January 5, 2010.